(d) if so, when and the steps taken in the direction of clearance of shipments for access to the market in those countries; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) Some consignments of garments under EU categories 4, 6 and 26 have been held up in EU ports as annual levels for 1998 in respect of these categories had been exceeded. A delegation of the Apparel Export Promotion Council had been sent to Europe in this regard. The matter has also been taken up bilaterally by the Government with the European Commission as well as with EU Member States. In the meantime, fresh 1999 quotas are being issued for any consignments coming back to India and the customs authorities have taken steps for prompt clearance of any such goods for purpose of re-export to Europe.

According to available information the quantity involved in such held up consignments in three categories is reported to be around two million pieces. Their value is estimated at about Rs. 40 crore.

Rebates on Handloom and Handicrafts

1694. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The rebate being given to Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporations in various States, State-wise; and

(b) The programmes of these Corporations, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The Rabate/Market Development Assistance sanctioned to various State Corporations dealing with handlooms during the current year (till date) is as follows:

	(Rs in lakhs)
Bihar	14.29
Gujarat	25.79
Haryana	21.04
Himachal Pradesh	3.00
J & K	18.65
Kerala	49.29
Madhya Pradesh	43.53
Maharashtra	22.47
Nagaland	0.77
Uttar Pradesh	57.66
West Bengal	62.43

(b) The programmes of the Handloom and Handicrafts Corporations of the States generally include distribution of raw material, improved equipments and training to the Handloom weavers, development of the products, participation in exhibitions, setting up of marketing outlets, welfare measures under various ongoing handloom schemes.

Production and Marketing of Silk in Assam

1695. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government to improve production and marketing of silk in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) In order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/ projects/programmes for promoting development of all 4 varieties of silk. These include schemes for extension of R & D training, infrastructure extension support to the sector through a net work of CSB units and implementation of certain development/ investment/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericutlure practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB has also taken up specific sericulture project like World Bank assisted NSP, Action